

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2943

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23381

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH ATTITUDES ON UNGA DISARMAMENT ISSUES

REF: A. STATE 163147

B. PARIS 23217

1. SUMMARY. FRENCH ARE IN PROCESS OF ARRIVING AT FINAL POLICIES ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES MENTIONED IN REF A (PARAS 7, 8, 9). THEY EXPECT TO HAVE ISSUES SORTED OUT IN TIME FOR THE SEPTEMBER 7 NATO CONSULTATION IN BRUSSELS ON UNGA SUBJECTS. WE EXPECT THAT FINAL FRENCH POLICIES WILL BE GENERALLY IN LINE WITH OUR VIEWS ON THE DISARMAMENT ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED DISARMAMENT SUBJECTS RAISED IN REF A WITH MISTRAL (QUAI DISARMAMENT OFFICER) AUGUST 31. MISTRAL NOTED THAT THE GOF WAS STILL IN PROCESS OF COMPLETING ITS PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNGA, BUT THAT FRENCH POLICIES SHOULD BE SETTLED IN TIME FOR
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THE NATO CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS ON SEPTEMBER 7. HE HAD THE

FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON DISARMAMENT ITEMS RAISED IN REF A:

3. WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, GOF WOULD FOLLOW US LINE ON THE IRANINA PROPOSAL FOR NEW EXPANDED COMITE. IF THE US SHOULD VOTE AGAINST SUCH A PROPOSAL OR ABSTAIN FROM VOTING, FRANCE WOULD NOT SUPPORT COMITE INITIATIVE. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOULD THE US (AND CHINA) DECIDE TO GO ALONG WITH THE IRANINA PROPOSAL, THE FRENCH COULD BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW SUIT. MISTRAL SAID HE WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF THE UK WERE TO TAKE A FAVORABLE STAND ON THE IRANINA PROPOSAL.

4. NON-USE OF FORCE. MISTRAL SAID THAT FRENCH POLICY WOULD BE IDENTICAL TO THE AMERICAN POSITION SET FORTH IN PARA 8, REF A. HE ADDED HE COULD SEE NO BENEFIT WHATSOEVER TO HAVING THE US-SOVIET BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR DISCUSSED AT THE UNGA AND HE ASSURED EMBOFF THAT GOF WAS NOT INTERESTED IN PURSUING THAT SUBJECT IN NEW YORK. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SUBJECT MIGHT BE RAISED BY OTHER COUNTRIES (E.G., MEXICO, ALONG THE LINE OF ITS EARLIER EFFORTS TO INJECT DISCUSSION OF SALE INTO THE UN FRAMEWORK).

5. NAPALM AND OTHER INCENDIARIES. MISTRAL OBSERVED THAT US AND GOF POLICIES WERE IN COMPLETE ACCORD. HE AGREED THAT ANY FURTHER UN ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE BROAD SUBJECT OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS RATHER THAN BE LIMITED TO NAPALM AND OTHER INCENDIARIES AND, WITHIN THAT CONTEXT, ANY FURTHER UN ACTION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BY THE FIRST COMMITTEE.

6. COMMENT: OUR DISCUSSION WITH MISTRAL (AND WITH BEAUX, REF B) UNDERLINED THE BROAD AREA OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOF AND US ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES RELATED TO THE UNGA. MOREOVER, IT WAS CLEAR FROM MISTRAL'S COMMENTS THAT THE NATO CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS IN PREPARATION FOR THE UNGA ARE CONSIDERED BY THE GOF TO BE AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO COORDINATE THEIR VIEWS WITH THE OTHER WESTERN ALLIES. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND US NATO CONTINUE TO MAKE THESE NATO CONSULTATIONS A FOCAL POINT FOR UNGA PREPARATIONS, PARTICULARLY FOR DISARMAMENT SUBJECTS.

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